

## *Message from the PYO on Janet Jagan's Birthday*

— *Dr. Frank Anthony*

It has often been said that there is a thin line between genius and madness, but there is an even bigger gap between good and greatness. To be great calls for dedication to a vision, sacrifice and struggle for the implementation of the pillars that make that vision a reality and the patience to see it gestate and be born. Many have tried to accomplish this feat of excellence but very few have succeeded.

Janet Jagan is one of those few persons who have set themselves a bold mission. She has spent her life championing the changes that are needed to achieve this mission. Looking back in retrospect, it seems that she has created a masterpiece. She has played many roles at the same time, different roles at different times. She has been nurse with a compassion for humanity. She is a writer whose articles have introduced new concepts and ideas which has stimulated discussion and awakened Guyanese to their rights. The fighting spirit in her has been borne out in the long and laborious struggles in the field of trade unionism; and for the improvement of working people. Her role in politics is now almost legendary, and so too are the accomplishments that she attained for women and Guyanese as a whole. These achievements have certainly made her the woman of our times.

Yet throughout this long sojourn there have been hiccups and difficulties, at times she had to endure the storm of persecution and ridicule, and there were those who try to socially ostracize her. These unkind and ruthless enemies did not deter her but have steeled her commitment and conviction to reach for the higher and loftier ideals of a better Guyana.

Today after so many years of service, Janet Jagan or JJ as she is fondly known is a reservoir of knowledge on Guyana's contemporary politics. She draws on these experiences to counsel others on the virtues of wisdom and patience. Her passion to help others is as natural as breathing, that is why many have turned to her when it seems that there is no hope. Her advice has always been timely and welcome.

For us young people in the Progressive Youth Organization and Guyana in general, Janet Jagan is an icon of excellence and an example of what dedication and commitment can bring. We are thankful to have someone of her stature in our midst to offer guidance and counsel. We are appreciative of her contributions that have built a strong foundation for the party, the women and youth organizations. It is from this foundation that the edifice of government has been built. The principles of equality, democracy and social justice are time enduring concepts that have helped us all create a better society.

As you mark this milestone on your journey in life, please accept a big thank

you for all that you have done. And the Progressive Youth Organization wish you good health as you continue to serve Guyana.



PPP Supporters pose with Mrs. Jagan during the 1997 Election Campaign



A PPP Solidarity March during the 1960s. Centre in front is Cde Janet Jagan.